

Cryo-EM of a *Marseilleviridae* virus particle reveals a large internal microassembly

*Kenta Okamoto^{1†}, Naoyuki Miyazaki^{2†}, Hemanth K.N. Reddy¹, Max F. Hantke¹, Filipe R.N.C. Maia¹, Daniel S. D. Larsson¹, Chantal Abergel³, Jean-Michel Claverie^{3,4}, Janos Hajdu^{1,5}, *Kazuyoshi Murata², and Martin Svenda¹

1. Laboratory of Molecular Biophysics, Department of Cell and Molecular Biology, Uppsala University, Husargatan 3 (Box 596), SE-75124 Uppsala, Sweden
2. National Institute for Physiological Sciences (NIPS), Okazaki, Aichi, 444-8585 Japan
3. Structural and Genomic Information Laboratory, UMR 7256 (IMM FR 3479) Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique & Aix-Marseille University, Marseille, 13288, France
4. Assistance Publique des Hôpitaux de Marseille. La Timone, 13005 Marseille, France.
5. Institute of Physics AS CR, v.v.i., Na Slovance 2, 18221 Prague 8, Czech Republic

*Corresponding authors: kenta.okamoto@icm.uu.se (KO); kazum@nips.ac.jp (KM)

†These authors contributed equally to this work.

1 **Abstract**

2 Nucleocytoplasmic large DNA viruses (NCLDV) blur the line between viruses and cells.
3 Melbournevirus (MelV, fam. *Marseilleviridae*) belongs to a new family of NCLDVs.
4 Here we present an electron cryo-microscopy structure of the MelV particle, with the
5 largest known triangulation number ($T=309$) for a virus. The 230-nm particle is
6 constructed by 3080 pseudo-hexagonal capsomers and encloses a membrane bilayer. Its
7 most distinct feature is a large dense body (LDB) consistently found in all particles.
8 Electron cryo-tomography of 147 particles showed that the LDB is located preferentially
9 in proximity to the bilayer. The LDB is 30 nm in size and its density matches that of a
10 genome/protein complex. More than 58 proteins are associated with the purified particle,
11 including histone-like proteins, putative membrane proteins and capsid proteins. The
12 observed intricate structural organization reinforces the genetic complexity of MelV,
13 setting it apart from other viruses, and suggests an evolutionary link with cellular
14 organisms.

1 **Introduction**

2 Nucleocytoplasmic large DNA viruses (NCLDV) share genetic and structural traits, and
3 propagate widely in free-living unicellular microorganisms such as protozoa and some
4 algae (Iyer et al., 2001). Comparative genomics of NCLDV has evoked speculations on
5 the origin of DNA viruses as a distinct domain of life and their role in the evolution of
6 cellular organisms (Abergel et al., 2015, Claverie and Abergel, 2013).

7 The initial representatives of the icosahedral NCLDV infecting unicellular
8 eukaryotes were isolated from *Chlorella*, a fresh water algae. These include the 190 nm in
9 diameter *Paramecium bursaria* chlorella virus type 1 (PBCV-1), the 220 nm in diameter
10 *Phaeocystis pouchetii* virus (PpV01) and the 150 nm in diameter *Phaeocystis globosa*
11 virus (PgV), respectively (Van Etten et al., 1982, Monier et al., 2008, Yan et al., 2005,
12 Santini et al., 2013). Fourteen years ago, the much larger amoebal virus, Mimivirus, was
13 identified from the water in a cooling tower of a hospital in England (La Scola et al.,
14 2003). The Mimivirus particle forms a pseudo-icosahedral core of 450 nm in diameter
15 covered with long fibers, 150 nm in length (La Scola et al., 2003, Xiao et al., 2005).
16 Since the discovery, a vast number of Mimivirus-like viruses have been isolated from
17 fresh water, seawater, and soil samples, as well as from living organisms (Claverie et al.,
18 2009, Saadi et al., 2013, Dornas et al., 2014). *Marseilleviridae* is a recently established
19 family among the large amoebal DNA viruses (Colson et al., 2013). They possess capsid
20 structures that vary in size from 190 to 250 nm. The particle architecture and the genome
21 complexity classify them into a unique family separated from the *Mimiviridae* viruses
22 (Aherfi et al., 2014b, Doutre et al., 2014, Doutre et al., 2015, Thomas et al., 2011).
23 Faustovirus, another recently isolated large amoebal virus, is classified into yet another

1 new family of the NCLDV. It is phylogenetically close to African swine fever virus
2 (ASFV) (Reteno et al., 2015). All these NCLDVs seem to share an evolutionary
3 relationship, albeit complex, based on a core set of conserved genes and their virion
4 structures (Iyer et al., 2001, Koonin and Yutin, 2010, Yutin and Koonin, 2012). Their
5 genomes encode a conserved major capsid protein (MCP). The MCPs form pseudo-
6 hexagonal trimers of approximately 70 Å in diameter, which is the constructing unit
7 (capsomer) in the capsid lattice (Nandhagopal et al., 2002).

8 Structural studies of the NCLDV particles are important for understanding their
9 assembly, mechanism of cell entry and evolution, but the challenges lie in their large
10 sizes. Few of the large algal and amoebal virions have been structurally analyzed. The
11 first electron cryo-microscopy (cryo-EM) structure of NCLDVs revealed that the large
12 capsid adopts an icosahedral lattice with a large triangulation number (T-number). The
13 pseudo-hexagonal capsomers form pentasymmetron and trisymmetron superstructures
14 (Yan et al., 2000). The capsid structures of the algal PBCV-1 and PpV01 with T=169 and
15 T=219 symmetries were determined to around 30 Å resolution using cryo-EM single
16 particle analysis (SPA) (Yan et al., 2005, Yan et al., 2000). Recently, the two capsid
17 layers of the amoebal Faustovirus with T=64 (inner layer) and T=277 (outer layer)
18 symmetries were determined to 15 and 26 Å resolution, respectively (Klose et al., 2016).
19 The T=277 was the largest-ever determined T-number among icosahedral viruses.
20 Although the T-number of the capsid lattice of Mimivirus is likely to be even larger and
21 is suggested to be in the range of $972 \leq T \leq 1200$, the exact value has not yet been
22 identified. The structure of the Mimivirus particle has been determined using cryo-EM
23 SPA without allowing the determination of the T-number of the capsid lattice due to the

- 1 low resolution resulting from the large size and the asymmetry of the virion (Xiao et al.,
- 2 2005, Xiao et al., 2009, Kuznetsov et al., 2010).
- 3

1 **Results**

2

3 **Identification of structural proteins in the MeIV particle**

4 We analyzed the protein components of purified Melbournevirus (MeIV) particles by
5 SDS-PAGE. The MeIV virions contain at least 10 major proteins in abundance and many
6 minor proteins (Fig. 1A). The most intense band appears around 50 kDa and is thought to
7 correspond to the MCP (MW 52.4 kDa), which is conserved across many NCLDV
8 (black arrow in Fig. 1A).

9 The purified virus particles were also analyzed by tandem mass spectrometry
10 (MS)-based proteomics analysis after 9 M urea treatment (Table S1) and 58 MeIV-
11 encoded proteins were identified with high reliability (SEQUEST score > 80) including
12 three histone-like or histone-related proteins. In addition, we identified several putative
13 viral enzymes: a cysteine peptidase, helicases, AAA-family ATPases, thioredoxins,
14 putative serine/threonine protein kinases, an uracil-DNA glycosylase, a putative
15 glycosyltransferase, a mannosyltransferase, an amine oxidase, a putative ribonuclease, a
16 sulfhydryl oxidase, 31 functionally uncharacterized proteins, and 6 putative membrane
17 proteins. Proteins probably deriving from the acanthamoeba host such as actin (Accession
18 number (AN): L8GT00, P02578) and a few stress-induced proteins were also identified
19 with relatively low scores. Further characterization of the structural proteins was
20 conducted by treating the sample with varying urea concentrations. As a result, we
21 identify five proteins that can be considered highly urea-resistant (Fig. 1B), including the
22 conserved MCP (MEL_305, AN: A0A097I267, Score 1273). The capsid was robust
23 enough to partially withstand a 4 M urea and thus the incompletely dispersed lattice of

1 MCP trimers might simultaneously have pulled down four other proteins during the
2 centrifugation of the sample washing (Asterisks in Fig. 1B, MEL_236 - AN:
3 A0A097I1Z4, MEL_089 - AN: A0A097I1J3, MEL_025 - AN: A0A097I1D3, MEL_096
4 - AN: A0A097I1K1). It is worth noticing that MEL_236 (AN: A0A097I1Z4), a 16 kDa
5 predicted protein, seems to be as abundant as the MEL_305 MCP (score 1292).

6

7 **Cryo-EM and single particle reconstruction**

8 The size of the icosahedral MelV particle is ~230 nm in diameter (Fig. 2A). An
9 approximately spherical double layer, assumed to be an inner membrane, could be
10 observed beneath the icosahedral capsid (white arrows in Fig. 2B). The layer seems more
11 diffuse around the 5-fold axes (Fig. 2C). Almost all particles show a dense interior, which
12 indicates that most of them are filled with the viral genome and proteins. All particles
13 clearly display a dense interior spot, approximately 30 nm in diameter. The shape of the
14 large dense body (LDB) does not seem to be spherical and the location within the particle
15 varies, but it is consistently observed (black arrows in Fig. 2A and a white circle in Fig.
16 2B).

17 Icosahedral symmetry was imposed during classification as well as averaging of
18 the particles for 3D reconstruction. The spherical layer is clearly observed beneath the
19 icosahedral capsid in re-projections from the 3D reconstruction, but the density was
20 weaker and the double layer structure smeared out around the 5-fold vertices (Fig. 2C).
21 The LDB and other interior features were also canceled out in the symmetrized re-
22 projections. However, the re-projection clearly shows a periodical lattice structure of the
23 capsid (white arrows in Fig. 2C). In total, 7,005 cryo-EM projection images of virus

1 particles were used for the 3D reconstruction and a resolution of 26.3 Å was acquired (the
2 resolution was estimated on the basis of the 0.5 Fourier shell correlation (FSC) cutoff
3 (Fig. 2D). The distance between the two farthest 5-fold vertices of the capsid is 232 nm.
4 The capsid surface is covered with ordered protrusions (Fig. 2E). Similarly ordered
5 protrusions have previously been reported in the structures of other related NCLDV's at
6 intermediate resolution, and assigned as the pseudo-hexagonal capsomers of the
7 conserved trimeric MCP (Nandhagopal et al., 2002, Yan et al., 2005). The ordered
8 protrusions of the MeIV particle are approximately 75 Å in diameter (Fig. 2F), which is
9 in the range of the capsomer sizes of other NCLDV's (Nandhagopal et al., 2002). The
10 typical thicknesses of the capsid and the membrane are 96 Å and 49 Å, respectively (Fig.
11 2G). The 49 Å-thickness of the double layers underneath the capsid is consistent with a
12 typical thickness of lipid membrane bilayers. The internal membrane is thicker and
13 appears to bulge out near the 5-fold axis (Fig. 2G).

14

15 **Capsid lattice and the T-number**

16 The triangulation number T describes the number of identical structural units $S = 60T$
17 with equivalent (or quasi-equivalent for $T > 1$) environment in the asymmetric unit of an
18 icosahedral capsid, as first described by Caspar and Klug (Caspar and Klug, 1962). The
19 allowed T-numbers are defined by the formula $T = Pf^2$ where $P = h^2 + hk + k^2$ (the
20 integers h and k define the number of lattice points between neighboring vertices) and for
21 any integer of f. Casper and Klug categorized the T-numbers into three different classes:
22 $P = 1$ ($T = 1, 4, 9, 16, \dots$), $P = 3$ ($T = 3, 12, 27, 48, \dots$) and the skew class with $P \geq 7$ ($T = 7,$
23 $13, 19, 21, \dots$). They also correctly predicted that structural units can cluster into

1 hexameric and pentameric groups, giving rise to M distinct morphological units or
2 capsomers, with M being the sum of $10 \times (T-1)$ hexamers and exactly 12 pentamers. At
3 the given resolution of the reconstruction, the hexameric capsomers of the MeIV particle
4 appear as ordered protrusions (Fig. 2F). Counting the number of capsomers in two
5 neighboring 5-fold vertices (Fig. 2E), we conclude that $T = 309$ for the MeIV capsid
6 lattice. Since 309 is a prime number, f must be 1 and therefore $P \geq 7$. Hence, the lattice
7 belongs to a skew class. That gives two options for h and k ; either $h = 7$ and $k = 13$ or $h =$
8 13 and $k = 7$.

9

10 **Pentasymmetrons and trisymmetrons model**

11 Wrigley first observed that collapsed capsids of large viruses tend to disintegrate into
12 pentagonal and triangular units where the triangular units do not necessarily correspond
13 to the triangular facets of the approximately icosahedral capsid (Wrigley, 1969). He
14 referred to these units as pentasymmetrons and trisymmetrons, and the full capsid is built
15 up by 12 pentasymmetrons centered at the 5-fold axes, and by 20 trisymmetrons centered
16 at the 3-fold axes. This structural organization has since been observed in other NCLDV
17 (Yan et al., 2000, Yan et al., 2005). A theoretical analysis of the possible
18 pentasymmetron-trisymmetron models of large NCLDV was previously published
19 (Simpson et al., 2003). According to the theory, the size of the pentasymmetrons and
20 trisymmetrons correlates with the h and k values used for T -number determination. Since
21 the MeIV lattice belongs to the skew class it may adopt two different sets of h and k
22 values corresponding to distinct pentasymmetron–trisymmetron models (Fig. S1). In the
23 case $(h, k) = (7, 13)$, the lattice consists of pentasymmetrons with 4 capsomer long edges,

1 and trisymmetrons with 16 capsomer long edges (model in Fig. S1, left), giving 30 and
2 136 capsomers in each pentasymmetron and trisymmetron, respectively (Table 1).
3 Alternatively, if $(h, k) = (13, 7)$, the pentasymmetrons have 7 capsomer long edges, and
4 the trisymmetrons have 13 capsomer long edges (model in Fig. S1, right). In either case,
5 the total number of pseudo-hexagonal capsomers is 3,080 (Table 1), which in turn are
6 assembled by 9,240 MCPs in the entire capsid lattice. Information of the orientation of
7 the pseudo-hexagonal capsomers is required for deducing which pentasymmetron–
8 trisymmetron model is correct for the MeIV particle. Although it is difficult to determine
9 the orientations of the capsomers at the current resolution, the model that is built with
10 $h=7$ and $k=13$ is structurally and evolutionary more likely (see discussion section for
11 details), hence we will only consider this model hereafter.

12

13 **Other features of the capsid**

14 The capsid structure of the MeIV particle has several unique features, which cannot be
15 explained merely by the simple quasi-equivalence model of hexagonal trimers of the
16 MCP. The ordered capsomers on the face of the capsid, near the 3-fold axis, are oriented
17 straight up (Fig. 3B), whereas the capsomers near the 5-fold axis seem to have varying
18 orientations (Fig. 3A). The capsid also seems denser (red capsomers in Fig. 3C) along the
19 edges of icosahedral surface, near the 2-fold axis. These capsomers do not show large
20 empty spaces between the protrusions at lower isodensity levels, unlike those seen closer
21 to the 3- and 5-fold axes (Fig. 3A-C). A superimposition of the cross-sections of the
22 capsomers near the 2-fold and 3-fold axes shows that the additional denser regions exist
23 along the edges of the 2-fold axes (orange densities in Fig. 3D). The denser areas near the

1 2-fold axes are located at the intersecting boundary between two trisymmetrons (red-
2 edged hexagons in Fig. 3E). The maximum likelihood-based 2D class-averaged image
3 shows the additional anchoring substructures between the capsid and the bulged out
4 membrane underneath the pentasymmetrons near the 5-fold axes (Fig. 4).

5

6 **Distribution of LDBs analyzed by electron cryo-tomography**

7 3D models (subtomograms) for 147 complete virus particles were obtained by electron
8 cryo-tomography (cryo-ET). In contrast to the 3D model obtained by SPA (Fig. 2G), the
9 resolution in cryo-ET was too low to distinguish the capsid and the double-layered
10 membrane (white isosurface in Fig. 5A). The LDB appears as a compact object with high
11 density in an off-centered position close to the capsid/membrane (green isosurface in Fig.
12 5A). Assuming the weak phase approximation (Vulovic et al., 2014), the image intensity
13 is locally proportional to the object density. The density of the LDB is estimated to be
14 around 1.60 g/cm^3 in comparison to the average intensity of the vitreous ice (density 0.92
15 g/cm^3) and the peak intensity of the capsid (typical protein density 1.36 g/cm^3) (Spahn et
16 al., 2000, Perlman et al., 1982). The rest of the interior regions have a density in the range
17 of $1.10\text{--}1.30 \text{ g/cm}^3$ (Fig. 5B). Multiple 3D subtomograms of MeIV particles were aligned
18 to one unique vertex that is the closest to the LDB, and these aligned subtomograms were
19 averaged (Fig. 5C). The LDB is most commonly located near the capsid/membrane (Fig.
20 5C). The 3D probability distribution of the LDB is calculated from the coordinates of the
21 vertices and the LDB (Figs. 5D, 5E, Movie S1). The majority of the LDBs are located
22 400 \AA from the closest vertex and 166 \AA under the membrane (Fig. 5E). The LDBs are

- 1 rarely located exactly on the 5-fold axes (Fig. 5D). A small number of LDBs are located
- 2 near the center of the particles (Fig. 5D).

1 **Discussion**

2 The resolution of the MeIV cryo-EM model as a fraction of Nyquist frequency is 0.25
3 (magnification scale: 3.31 Å/pixel, achieved resolution: 26.3 Å), which is lower than
4 those of other reported cryo-EM models using a CCD (Chen et al., 2008). Particle
5 heterogeneity, and weak signals coming from the thick sample may have limited the
6 resolution here. Furthermore, since the MeIV particle is large, only a handful of MeIV
7 virions fit within the field of view at high magnification, making data collection more
8 time consuming than usual. In this study, this restriction limited the number of recorded
9 images and hampered our efforts in improving resolution.

10 The MeIV structure determined here is the first and the largest interpretable 3D
11 structure of a member of the *Marseilleviridae* family (Fig. 2). The diameter of the MeIV
12 particle (232 nm) is 12 nm larger than that of PpV01 (220 nm) (Yan et al., 2005),
13 corresponding to a 1.2 times larger volume, while the genome size of MeIV (369,360 bp:
14 369-kbp) is significantly smaller than that of PpV01 (485-kbp) (Doutre et al., 2014,
15 Monier et al., 2008). Why does MeIV require such a large particle despite harboring a
16 significantly smaller DNA genome in comparison to other NCLDVs? The
17 *Marseilleviridae* viruses uniquely encode histone-like proteins (Doutre et al., 2014,
18 Thomas et al., 2011, Aherfi et al., 2014a), and we identified three histone-like or histone-
19 related proteins in the purified particle (Fig. 1, Table S1). *Marseilleviridae* viruses may
20 have a specific genome-packaging mechanism with a histone-like superstructure of their
21 dsDNA genome.

22 According to theory, the capsid lattice of the MeIV particle may belong to two
23 possible lattices (Fig. S1). To conclusively distinguish between these two cases, a higher

1 resolution model has to be produced, to reveal the specific details of the inter-capsomer
2 connectivity network (Simpson et al., 2003). Other NCLDV's have pentasymmetrons
3 composed of 4 capsomer long edges (Table 1). The evolution towards larger capsids
4 merely requires increasing the size of the trisymmetrons (Fig. 6). One of the MeIV
5 models (Fig. S1, left model) is consistent with this pattern. The other MeIV model (Fig.
6 S1, right model) would require concerted adaptations of the pentasymmetron and the
7 trisymmetron sizes as well as of the interfaces between them. Thus, the model with small
8 pentasymmetrons (Fig. S1, left model) is evolutionary and structurally more likely, by
9 parsimony.

10 The 232 nm-sized capsid of the MeIV particle is the largest among known
11 *Marseilleviridae* viruses. In comparison with Cannes 8 virus, another member of the
12 *Marseilleviridae*, is less than 200 nm in diameter (Aherfi et al., 2014b). Further studies of
13 other smaller *Marseilleviridae* virions are required to clarify the relationship between the
14 capsid size and the sizes of pentasymmetrons and trisymmetrons. The Mimivirus particle
15 is expected to form a capsid with a much larger T-number lattice than any other known
16 viruses (Xiao et al., 2005, Xiao et al., 2009). However, the sizes of its pentasymmetrons
17 and trisymmetrons are still unclear. Further structural analysis of the Mimivirus particle
18 at a higher resolution may elucidate the evolutionary and structural strategies leading to
19 such giant icosahedral capsid lattices. Minor capsid proteins are important in
20 several other NCLDV's. PBCV-1 and PpV01 particles have 60 bean-like protrusions on
21 certain capsomers, which likely play a role in cell receptor recognition (Yan et al., 2005,
22 Yan et al., 2000). Chilo iridescent virus (CIV) and PBCV-1 particles have finger-like
23 proteins on the capsomers, and CIV and Faustovirus particles also have zipper and anchor

1 proteins, which may function as “cement” or “glue” to connect capsomers (Yan et al.,
2 2009, Klose et al., 2016). Such minor proteins have also been described in several other
3 dsDNA viruses, such as P30 and P16 in bacteriophage PRD1 (Abrescia et al., 2004, San
4 Martin et al., 2002), P1 (expected anchor protein) in PM2 (Huiskonen et al., 2004), and
5 protein IIIa (or C-termini of protein IX) and pVIII in adenovirus (Nemerow et al., 2012,
6 Liu et al., 2010). The additional denser regions at the 2-fold axes in the MeIV capsid (Fig.
7 3B-D) might be composed by such minor protein(s). The denser zones are located at the
8 intersection of the boundary between two adjacent trisymmetrons (red-edged hexagons in
9 Fig. 3E), indicating that the icosahedral facets are jointed like door hinges to adopt to the
10 large curvature at the edge between icosahedral facets. The large disparity in size
11 between the trisymmetrons and the pentasymmetrons may induce additional structural
12 stress and require a mechanism for connecting them. These “hinge” proteins are probably
13 related to the reported “cement” and “glue” proteins of other dsDNA viruses. The “hinge”
14 proteins are not directly assigned by the proteomics analysis, however one or several of
15 the urea-resistant proteins that were found to be associated with the MCPs could serve
16 this purpose (Fig. 1B, Table S1). The orientations of the capsomers are distinct at the 5-
17 fold axis (Fig. 3A). This may be the result of the structural diversity of the capsomers at
18 different positions in the quasi-equivalent capsid lattice (Caspar and Klug, 1962). It has
19 been disputed whether the *Marseilleviridae* viruses possess fibers on the surface or not
20 (Boyer et al., 2009, Doutre et al., 2014). In our study, no such fibrous structures were
21 observed on the MeIV capsid neither in the raw cryo-EM images nor in the reconstructed
22 icosahedrally-averaged 3D model (Fig. 2A, 2E).

1 Not much is known about the capsid assembly process of large dsDNA viruses.
2 The current understanding is that the basic structural units are formed as
3 pentasymmetrons and trisymmetrons. It has been demonstrated that these units are key
4 assembly intermediates in the formation of capsids (Wrigley, 1969, Yan et al., 2005,
5 Burnett, 1985). An icosahedral vertex of the Mimivirus seems to be initially generated
6 during the capsid assembly from the periphery of the virus factory (Mutsafi et al., 2013).
7 This indicates that an icosahedral vertex of the MeIV particle may be initially built up by
8 five trisymmetrons that are connected by “hinge” protein(s) and a pentasymmetron. The
9 NCLDVs have been reported to encapsulate interior liposome-like vesicles that are
10 asymmetric and flexible (Yan et al., 2000, Yan et al., 2005). In contrast, the virions of
11 MeIV had a more spherical and seemingly more rigid membrane structure (Fig. 2B, 2C).
12 Six membrane proteins were identified in the MS-based proteomics analysis (Table S1)
13 and some of them are probably incorporated into the interior membrane bilayer. The
14 MeIV membrane is less well-defined at the 5-fold axes and seemed to bulge out (Fig. 2G,
15 4B and 5C). A high degree of integral membrane proteins or anchor proteins of the capsid
16 are likely embedded at these sites, thereby disrupting the spherical membrane structure.
17 The anchoring between the membrane and the 5-fold vertices can be seen in the 2D class-
18 averaged projection (Fig. 4). The CIV particle possesses a similar membrane feature and
19 the anchor proteins tether the lipid membrane to the pentameric 5-fold vertices (Yan et
20 al., 2009). The membrane in turn may be anchored to the 5-fold vertex aided by
21 membrane proteins to further guide the complete assembly of the particle. However,
22 many questions remain regarding the accurate MeIV particle assembly mechanism.
23 Additional proteins are probably needed to guide the capsid assembly of these large

1 virions such as the putative MCP-interacting protein(s) (MEL_236, MEL_089,
2 MEL_025, MEL_096) (Fig. 1B, Table S1).

3 No similar interior LDB-like complex has been reported in the structures of other
4 NCLDVs (Yan et al., 2000, Yan et al., 2005, Reteno et al., 2015, Xiao et al., 2009). It is
5 astonishing that a large 30 nm object, similar in size to a small virus or to a ribosome, is
6 incorporated into a virus particle (Figs. 2A, 2B and 4). Several gigantic amoeba viruses
7 episodically form dot-like or interior fibrillar components (Philippe et al., 2013, Legendre
8 et al., 2014), but in MelV every single imaged virus particle had such a component. The
9 position of the LDB was not fixed in the virion, however rarely located exactly on the 5-
10 fold axis or near the center of the particle, and seems to be loosely restrained to the
11 proximity of the capsid/membrane (Fig. 5D). This tethering of the LDB may be the result
12 of an interaction between the LDB and the membrane. Expected membrane proteins may
13 also impede the precise positioning of the LDBs below the 5-fold vertices (Fig. 4, Fig.
14 5D). The LDB is estimated to be around 1.2 times denser than the capsid layer of the
15 virus (Fig. 5B). It is difficult to pack proteins into the LDB in a manner that makes them
16 denser than the capsid lattice. A previous study of bulk cross-linked chromatin fragments
17 (Schwartz et al., 2005) indicated a density of 1.39–1.42 g/cm³, while the density of cross-
18 linked proteins is ≤ 1.25 g/cm³ and the density of free DNA is ≤ 1.69 g/cm³. The presence
19 of several histone-like structural proteins encourages the hypothesis that the LDB
20 consists of a nucleoprotein complex. It is however not feasible to pack the entire 369 kbp
21 genome into such a small volume, but a part of the genome may be more densely packed
22 or bound to transcription factors or a helicase of the MelV. The density of a eukaryotic
23 ribosome is approximately 1.60 g/cm³ in free form (Vournakis and Rich, 1971) and the

1 density of the LDB agree on that of the ribosome, although Mollivirus is the only known
2 giant amoebal virus that incorporates host ribosomal proteins (Legendre et al., 2015). The
3 eukaryotic nucleus forms a dense nucleolus, where it primarily serves as a site of
4 ribosomal synthesis and assembly (Thiry and Lafontaine, 2005). Our proteomics
5 experiments show that MeIV possesses a conserved putative ribonuclease III
6 (A0A097I1Y1 in Table S1). Bacterial and eukaryotic RNase III is required for RNA
7 processing localizing to the bacterial nucleoid and eukaryotic nucleolus (Malagon, 2013,
8 Wu et al., 2000). The LDB may include enzymes, transcriptions factors, and parts of the
9 viral genome to initialize the generation of new virus particles.

1 **Materials and Methods**

2

3 **Virus propagation and purification**

4 MelV was propagated in *Acanthamoeba castellanii* cells cultured in PPYG medium (2.0
5 % w/v proteose peptone, 0.1 % w/v yeast extract, 4 mM MgSO₄, 0.4 mM CaCl₂, 0.05
6 mM Fe(NH₄)₂(SO₄)₂, 2.5 mM Na₂HPO₄, 2.5 mM KH₂PO₄, and 100 mM sucrose, pH
7 6.5). The protocol used to purify particles was described previously (Doutre et al., 2014).
8 In short, the infected culture fluid (ICF) was collected and centrifuged for 10 min at
9 500g, 4°C to remove cell debris. The supernatant was centrifuged for 35 min at 6,500g,
10 4°C. The pellet was suspended in 1 mL of PBS buffer. The suspended sample was loaded
11 onto a 10–60 % sucrose gradient and centrifuged for 90 min at 6,500g, 4°C. The
12 concentrated band was collected and dialyzed in PBS. The dialyzed sample was
13 centrifuged for 35 min at 6,500 g, 4°C and the pellet was suspended in PBS and used for
14 further proteomics and cryo-EM analysis.

15

16 **MS/MS tandem spectrometry and database searches**

17 The purified virus particles were divided into three equal volumes, centrifuged at 8,000 g
18 for 45 min, 4 °C, and then the supernatant was removed. These pellets were suspended in
19 9, 4, or 2 M Urea buffer and the proteins were extracted. Thereafter the samples were
20 incubated for 1 h at room temperature, sonicated, and then centrifuged at 16,000 g, 4 °C
21 for 10 min. The supernatants were collected, reduced, alkylated and digested by Trypsin
22 (Roche Applied Science) overnight as described elsewhere
23 (<http://www.scilifelab.se/facilities/bioanalytical-proteomics/>). The digested samples were

1 purified on a Pierce C18-column (Thermo Scientific), dried and resolved in 0.1 % formic
2 acid. The resulting peptides were separated in reverse-phase on a C18-column in a 15 mL
3 0.1% formic acid acetonitrile gradient (A: 0% and B: 99.9% acetonitrile) for 90 min,
4 electrosprayed on-line to a Q Exactive Plus mass spectrometer (Thermo Finnigan) and
5 sequentially analyzed by MS/MS tandem spectrometry. Database searches were
6 performed using the SEQUEST algorithm (Eng et al., 1994), which is embedded in
7 Proteome Discoverer 2.1 (Thermo Scientific) against proteins from *Melbournevirus*
8 (Taxonomy ID: 1560514) and *Acanthamoeba castellanii* downloaded from the UniProt
9 KB database (Aug 2016). The search criteria for protein identification were set to at least
10 two matching peptides of 95 % confidence level per protein. 121, 133 and 118 proteins
11 were detected by this criterion in 9 M, 4 M and 2 M urea-treated samples, respectively.
12 Proteins with a score over 80 according to the SEQUEST algorithm was considered with
13 high reliability to be virions proteins and 58 out of 121 identified proteins were listed as
14 such (Table S1).

15

16 **Cryo-EM image acquisition and single particle analysis (SPA)**

17 Purified virus particles were applied onto a holey carbon grid (R1.2/1.3 Quantifoil Micro
18 Tools GmbH, Germany) pretreated by glow-discharge, and plunged-frozen in liquid
19 nitrogen-cooled ethane using Vitrobot Mark-IV (FEI Company, USA). The ice-
20 embedded sample was observed using a field emission transmission electron microscope
21 (FE-TEM), JEM2200FS (JEOL Ltd. Japan), at 45,317 times detector magnification (3.36
22 Å/pixel) with an accelerating voltage of 200 keV using a 4k x 4k charge-coupled device
23 (F415, TVIPS GmbH, Germany) and an electron dose of $\sim 20 \text{ e}/\text{\AA}^2$. An omega-type

1 energy filter was applied to obtain a zero loss electron beam (20 eV slit width). The
2 underfocus values were approximately 1–5 μm . EMAN2 was used for reconstructing the
3 3D structures from the images (Tang et al., 2007). Virus particles were boxed separately
4 using e2boxer.py (EMAN2). Contrast transfer function (CTF) calculations and amplitude
5 corrections were performed on boxed particles by e2ctf.py (EMAN2) and then manually
6 verified by adjusting the defocus and B-factor values. Several random icosahedral initial
7 models were calculated using class-averaged virus particle images. Initially 1,979 virus
8 particles were used for the 3D reconstruction. The signals from the obtained images were
9 weak, so binning was applied when calculating the first model. The pixel size after
10 binning was 6.72 $\text{\AA}/\text{pixel}$. Icosahedral symmetry was imposed during the 3D refinement.
11 During the reconstruction process, outer radial masking, low-pass filtering, and FSC
12 calculation were applied by the EMAN2 program. The calculations were conducted using
13 a CPU cluster using 100–200 CPU cores per job. After 12 iterative steps of refinement,
14 the first SPA model was generated, which was estimated to have a resolution of 35.0 \AA
15 using a FSC resolution cutoff of 0.5. Then, 7,005 particle images without binning (3.36
16 $\text{\AA}/\text{pixel}$) and the 35.0 \AA starting model were used for reconstructing the final model.
17 After 10 iterative steps of refinement with inner and outer masking, the final SPA 3D
18 model was generated and the reconstruction estimated to have a resolution of 26.3 \AA with
19 a FCS resolution cutoff of 0.5. The 3D volume of the final model was visualized by
20 UCSF Chimera (Pettersen et al., 2004). A 2D class-averaged projection of the MeIV
21 particle was also generated by maximum likelihood-based 2D classification using
22 RELION (Scheres, 2012).
23

1 **Tomographic reconstruction and data analysis**

2 Five microliters of the virus sample was mixed with the same amount of 15 nm fiducial
3 marker gold colloids. The specimen was loaded onto a holey-carbon grid (R1.2/1.3
4 Quantifoil) and plunged-frozen in liquid nitrogen-cooled ethane, and imaged with a FE-
5 TEM, JEOL JEM2200FS, at 24,116 times detector magnification on a 4k x 4k charge-
6 coupled device (TVIPS, F415) with an accelerating voltage of 200 kV. Specimens were
7 tilted from 70° to -70° with 2° angular steps. Images were binned up to 12.11 Å/pixel
8 after collecting the data. The alignment of the images and the final tomograms were
9 calculated by the IMOD software (Kremer et al., 1996) by using the colloidal gold
10 fiducial markers. A total of 147 subtomograms of the MeIV particle were picked up by
11 EMAN2 (Tang et al., 2007). These particles were low-pass Gaussian filtered by
12 e2proc3d.py (EMAN2). The subsequent post-tomographic image processing was
13 performed using EMAN1 (Tang et al., 2007, Ludtke et al., 1999). The 20 Å low-pass
14 filtered subtomograms were aligned to the SPA model of the MeIV particle. These
15 aligned subtomograms were symmetrically rotated to place the LDB to the same
16 asymmetric unit of the icosahedral capsid. The subtomogram-averaged model of the
17 MeIV particle was calculated by averaging the processed subtomograms. To characterize
18 positions of individual LDBs, the coordinates of the vertices and the interior LDB were
19 determined by the following procedure. First, the final SPR model was rotated to match
20 the orientation of the each low-resolution subtomogram particle. Then the coordinates of
21 the vertices of the capsid of the SPA model and the densest region within the LDB in the
22 tomographic model were determined by manual selection using the Chimera software
23 (Pettersen et al., 2004). The probability distribution of the LDB was calculated by the

- 1 coordinates of 147 LDBs positions in the MeV particle with applying an isosurface level
- 2 to these LDB positions.

1 **References**

- 2 ABERGEL, C., LEGENDRE, M. & CLAVERIE, J. M. 2015. The rapidly expanding
3 universe of giant viruses: Mimivirus, Pandoravirus, Pithovirus and Mollivirus.
4 *FEMS Microbiol Rev*, 39, 779-96.
- 5 ABRESCIA, N. G., COCKBURN, J. J., GRIMES, J. M., SUTTON, G. C., DIPROSE, J. M.,
6 BUTCHER, S. J., FULLER, S. D., SAN MARTIN, C., BURNETT, R. M., STUART, D.
7 I., BAMFORD, D. H. & BAMFORD, J. K. 2004. Insights into assembly from
8 structural analysis of bacteriophage PRD1. *Nature*, 432, 68-74.
- 9 AHERFI, S., BOUGHALMI, M., PAGNIER, I., FOURNOUS, G., LA SCOLA, B., RAOULT, D.
10 & COLSON, P. 2014a. Complete genome sequence of Tunisvirus, a new
11 member of the proposed family Marseilleviridae. *Arch Virol*, 159, 2349-58.
- 12 AHERFI, S., LA SCOLA, B., PAGNIER, I., RAOULT, D. & COLSON, P. 2014b. The
13 expanding family Marseilleviridae. *Virology*, 466-467, 27-37.
- 14 BOYER, M., YUTIN, N., PAGNIER, I., BARRASSI, L., FOURNOUS, G., ESPINOSA, L.,
15 ROBERT, C., AZZA, S., SUN, S., ROSSMANN, M. G., SUZAN-MONTI, M., LA
16 SCOLA, B., KOONIN, E. V. & RAOULT, D. 2009. Giant Marseillevirus highlights
17 the role of amoebae as a melting pot in emergence of chimeric
18 microorganisms. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 106, 21848-53.
- 19 BURNETT, R. M. 1985. The structure of the adenovirus capsid. II. The packing
20 symmetry of hexon and its implications for viral architecture. *J Mol Biol*, 185,
21 125-43.
- 22 CASPAR, D. L. & KLUG, A. 1962. Physical principles in the construction of regular
23 viruses. *Cold Spring Harb Symp Quant Biol*, 27, 1-24.
- 24 CHEN, D. H., JAKANA, J., LIU, X., SCHMID, M. F. & CHIU, W. 2008. Achievable
25 resolution from images of biological specimens acquired from a 4k x 4k CCD
26 camera in a 300-kV electron cryomicroscope. *J Struct Biol*, 163, 45-52.
- 27 CLAVERIE, J. M. & ABERGEL, C. 2013. Open questions about giant viruses. *Adv Virus*
28 *Res*, 85, 25-56.
- 29 CLAVERIE, J. M., GRZELA, R., LARTIGUE, A., BERNADAC, A., NITSCHKE, S., VACELET, J.,
30 OGATA, H. & ABERGEL, C. 2009. Mimivirus and Mimiviridae: giant viruses
31 with an increasing number of potential hosts, including corals and sponges. *J*
32 *Invertebr Pathol*, 101, 172-80.
- 33 COLSON, P., PAGNIER, I., YOOSUF, N., FOURNOUS, G., LA SCOLA, B. & RAOULT, D.
34 2013. "Marseilleviridae", a new family of giant viruses infecting amoebae.
35 *Arch Virol*, 158, 915-20.
- 36 DORNAS, F. P., RODRIGUES, F. P., BORATTO, P. V., SILVA, L. C., FERREIRA, P. C.,
37 BONJARDIM, C. A., TRINDADE, G. S., KROON, E. G., LA SCOLA, B. & ABRAHAO,
38 J. S. 2014. Mimivirus circulation among wild and domestic mammals, Amazon
39 Region, Brazil. *Emerg Infect Dis*, 20, 469-72.
- 40 DOUTRE, G., ARFIB, B., ROCHETTE, P., CLAVERIE, J. M., BONIN, P. & ABERGEL, C.
41 2015. Complete Genome Sequence of a New Member of the Marseilleviridae
42 Recovered from the Brackish Submarine Spring in the Cassis Port-Miou
43 Calanque, France. *Genome Announc*, 3.

- 1 DOUTRE, G., PHILIPPE, N., ABERGEL, C. & CLAVERIE, J. M. 2014. Genome analysis of
2 the first Marseilleviridae representative from Australia indicates that most of
3 its genes contribute to virus fitness. *J Virol*, 88, 14340-9.
- 4 ENG, J. K., MCCORMACK, A. L. & YATES, J. R. 1994. An approach to correlate tandem
5 mass spectral data of peptides with amino acid sequences in a protein
6 database. *J Am Soc Mass Spectrom*, 5, 976-89.
- 7 HUIKONEN, J. T., KIVELA, H. M., BAMFORD, D. H. & BUTCHER, S. J. 2004. The PM2
8 virion has a novel organization with an internal membrane and pentameric
9 receptor binding spikes. *Nat Struct Mol Biol*, 11, 850-6.
- 10 IYER, L. M., ARAVIND, L. & KOONIN, E. V. 2001. Common origin of four diverse
11 families of large eukaryotic DNA viruses. *J Virol*, 75, 11720-34.
- 12 KLOSE, T., RETENO, D. G., BENAMAR, S., HOLLERBACH, A., COLSON, P., LA SCOLA, B.
13 & ROSSMANN, M. G. 2016. Structure of faustovirus, a large dsDNA virus. *Proc*
14 *Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 113, 6206-11.
- 15 KOONIN, E. V. & YUTIN, N. 2010. Origin and evolution of eukaryotic large nucleo-
16 cytoplasmic DNA viruses. *Intervirology*, 53, 284-92.
- 17 KREMER, J. R., MASTRONARDE, D. N. & MCINTOSH, J. R. 1996. Computer
18 visualization of three-dimensional image data using IMOD. *J Struct Biol*, 116,
19 71-6.
- 20 KUZNETSOV, Y. G., XIAO, C., SUN, S., RAOULT, D., ROSSMANN, M. & MCPHERSON, A.
21 2010. Atomic force microscopy investigation of the giant mimivirus. *Virology*,
22 404, 127-37.
- 23 LA SCOLA, B., AUDIC, S., ROBERT, C., JUNGANG, L., DE LAMBALLERIE, X.,
24 DRANCOURT, M., BIRTLES, R., CLAVERIE, J. M. & RAOULT, D. 2003. A giant
25 virus in amoebae. *Science*, 299, 2033.
- 26 LEGENDRE, M., BARTOLI, J., SHMAKOVA, L., JEUDY, S., LABADIE, K., ADRAIT, A.,
27 LESCOT, M., POIROT, O., BERTAUX, L., BRULEY, C., COUTE, Y., RIVKINA, E.,
28 ABERGEL, C. & CLAVERIE, J. M. 2014. Thirty-thousand-year-old distant
29 relative of giant icosahedral DNA viruses with a pandoravirus morphology.
30 *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 111, 4274-9.
- 31 LEGENDRE, M., LARTIGUE, A., BERTAUX, L., JEUDY, S., BARTOLI, J., LESCOT, M.,
32 ALEMPIC, J. M., RAMUS, C., BRULEY, C., LABADIE, K., SHMAKOVA, L., RIVKINA,
33 E., COUTE, Y., ABERGEL, C. & CLAVERIE, J. M. 2015. In-depth study of
34 Mollivirus sibericum, a new 30,000-y-old giant virus infecting
35 Acanthamoeba. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 112, E5327-35.
- 36 LIU, H., JIN, L., KOH, S. B., ATANASOV, I., SCHEIN, S., WU, L. & ZHOU, Z. H. 2010.
37 Atomic structure of human adenovirus by cryo-EM reveals interactions
38 among protein networks. *Science*, 329, 1038-43.
- 39 LUDTKE, S. J., BALDWIN, P. R. & CHIU, W. 1999. EMAN: semiautomated software for
40 high-resolution single-particle reconstructions. *J Struct Biol*, 128, 82-97.
- 41 MALAGON, F. 2013. RNase III is required for localization to the nucleoid of the 5'
42 pre-rRNA leader and for optimal induction of rRNA synthesis in E. coli. *RNA*,
43 19, 1200-7.
- 44 MONIER, A., LARSEN, J. B., SANDAA, R. A., BRATBAK, G., CLAVERIE, J. M. & OGATA, H.
45 2008. Marine mimivirus relatives are probably large algal viruses. *Virology*, 5,
46 12.

- 1 MUTSAFI, Y., SHIMONI, E., SHIMON, A. & MINSKY, A. 2013. Membrane assembly
2 during the infection cycle of the giant Mimivirus. *PLoS Pathog*, 9, e1003367.
- 3 NANDHAGOPAL, N., SIMPSON, A. A., GURNON, J. R., YAN, X., BAKER, T. S., GRAVES, M.
4 V., VAN ETEN, J. L. & ROSSMANN, M. G. 2002. The structure and evolution of
5 the major capsid protein of a large, lipid-containing DNA virus. *Proc Natl*
6 *Acad Sci U S A*, 99, 14758-63.
- 7 NEMEROW, G. R., STEWART, P. L. & REDDY, V. S. 2012. Structure of human
8 adenovirus. *Curr Opin Virol*, 2, 115-21.
- 9 PERLMAN, A. J., STANLEY, F. & SAMUELS, H. H. 1982. Thyroid hormone nuclear
10 receptor. Evidence for multimeric organization in chromatin. *J Biol Chem*,
11 257, 930-8.
- 12 PETTERSEN, E. F., GODDARD, T. D., HUANG, C. C., COUCH, G. S., GREENBLATT, D. M.,
13 MENG, E. C. & FERRIN, T. E. 2004. UCSF Chimera--a visualization system for
14 exploratory research and analysis. *J Comput Chem*, 25, 1605-12.
- 15 PHILIPPE, N., LEGENDRE, M., DOUTRE, G., COUTE, Y., POIROT, O., LESCOT, M.,
16 ARSLAN, D., SELTZER, V., BERTAUX, L., BRULEY, C., GARIN, J., CLAVERIE, J. M.
17 & ABERGEL, C. 2013. Pandoraviruses: amoeba viruses with genomes up to
18 2.5 Mb reaching that of parasitic eukaryotes. *Science*, 341, 281-6.
- 19 RETENO, D. G., BENAMAR, S., KHALIL, J. B., ANDREANI, J., ARMSTRONG, N., KLOSE,
20 T., ROSSMANN, M., COLSON, P., RAOULT, D. & LA SCOLA, B. 2015.
21 Faustovirus, an asfarvirus-related new lineage of giant viruses infecting
22 amoebae. *J Virol*, 89, 6585-94.
- 23 SAADI, H., RETENO, D. G., COLSON, P., AHERFI, S., MINODIER, P., PAGNIER, I.,
24 RAOULT, D. & LA SCOLA, B. 2013. Shan virus: a new mimivirus isolated from
25 the stool of a Tunisian patient with pneumonia. *Intervirology*, 56, 424-9.
- 26 SAN MARTIN, C., HUISKONEN, J. T., BAMFORD, J. K., BUTCHER, S. J., FULLER, S. D.,
27 BAMFORD, D. H. & BURNETT, R. M. 2002. Minor proteins, mobile arms and
28 membrane-capsid interactions in the bacteriophage PRD1 capsid. *Nat Struct*
29 *Biol*, 9, 756-63.
- 30 SANTINI, S., JEUDY, S., BARTOLI, J., POIROT, O., LESCOT, M., ABERGEL, C., BARBE, V.,
31 WOMMACK, K. E., NOORDELOOS, A. A., BRUSSAARD, C. P. & CLAVERIE, J. M.
32 2013. Genome of Phaeocystis globosa virus PgV-16T highlights the common
33 ancestry of the largest known DNA viruses infecting eukaryotes. *Proc Natl*
34 *Acad Sci U S A*, 110, 10800-5.
- 35 SCHERES, S. H. 2012. A Bayesian view on cryo-EM structure determination. *J Mol*
36 *Biol*, 415, 406-18.
- 37 SCHWARTZ, Y. B., KAHN, T. G. & PIRROTTA, V. 2005. Characteristic low density and
38 shear sensitivity of cross-linked chromatin containing polycomb complexes.
39 *Mol Cell Biol*, 25, 432-9.
- 40 SIMPSON, A. A., NANDHAGOPAL, N., VAN ETEN, J. L. & ROSSMANN, M. G. 2003.
41 Structural analyses of Phycodnaviridae and Iridoviridae. *Acta Crystallogr D*
42 *Biol Crystallogr*, 59, 2053-9.
- 43 SPAHN, C. M., PENCZEK, P. A., LEITH, A. & FRANK, J. 2000. A method for
44 differentiating proteins from nucleic acids in intermediate-resolution density
45 maps: cryo-electron microscopy defines the quaternary structure of the
46 Escherichia coli 70S ribosome. *Structure*, 8, 937-48.

- 1 TANG, G., PENG, L., BALDWIN, P. R., MANN, D. S., JIANG, W., REES, I. & LUDTKE, S. J.
2 2007. EMAN2: an extensible image processing suite for electron microscopy.
3 *J Struct Biol*, 157, 38-46.
- 4 THIRY, M. & LAFONTAINE, D. L. 2005. Birth of a nucleolus: the evolution of
5 nucleolar compartments. *Trends Cell Biol*, 15, 194-9.
- 6 THOMAS, V., BERTELLI, C., COLLYN, F., CASSON, N., TELENTI, A., GOESMANN, A.,
7 CROXATTO, A. & GREUB, G. 2011. Lausannevirus, a giant amoebal virus
8 encoding histone doublets. *Environ Microbiol*, 13, 1454-66.
- 9 VAN ET TEN, J. L., MEINTS, R. H., KUCZMARSKI, D., BURBANK, D. E. & LEE, K. 1982.
10 Viruses of symbiotic Chlorella-like algae isolated from Paramecium bursaria
11 and Hydra viridis. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 79, 3867-71.
- 12 VOURNAKIS, J. & RICH, A. 1971. Size changes in eukaryotic ribosomes. *Proc Natl*
13 *Acad Sci U S A*, 68, 3021-5.
- 14 VULOVIC, M., VOORTMAN, L. M., VAN VLIET, L. J. & RIEGER, B. 2014. When to use the
15 projection assumption and the weak-phase object approximation in phase
16 contrast cryo-EM. *Ultramicroscopy*, 136, 61-6.
- 17 WRIGLEY, N. G. 1969. An electron microscope study of the structure of Sericesthis
18 iridescent virus. *J Gen Virol*, 5, 123-34.
- 19 WU, H., XU, H., MIRAGLIA, L. J. & CROOKE, S. T. 2000. Human RNase III is a 160-kDa
20 protein involved in preribosomal RNA processing. *J Biol Chem*, 275, 36957-
21 65.
- 22 XIAO, C., CHIPMAN, P. R., BATTISTI, A. J., BOWMAN, V. D., RENESTO, P., RAOULT, D.
23 & ROSSMANN, M. G. 2005. Cryo-electron microscopy of the giant Mimivirus. *J*
24 *Mol Biol*, 353, 493-6.
- 25 XIAO, C., KUZNETSOV, Y. G., SUN, S., HAFENSTEIN, S. L., KOSTYUCHENKO, V. A.,
26 CHIPMAN, P. R., SUZAN-MONTI, M., RAOULT, D., MCPHERSON, A. &
27 ROSSMANN, M. G. 2009. Structural studies of the giant mimivirus. *PLoS Biol*,
28 7, e92.
- 29 YAN, X., CHIPMAN, P. R., CASTBERG, T., BRATBAK, G. & BAKER, T. S. 2005. The
30 marine algal virus PpV01 has an icosahedral capsid with T=219
31 quasisymmetry. *J Virol*, 79, 9236-43.
- 32 YAN, X., OLSON, N. H., VAN ET TEN, J. L., BERGOIN, M., ROSSMANN, M. G. & BAKER, T.
33 S. 2000. Structure and assembly of large lipid-containing dsDNA viruses. *Nat*
34 *Struct Biol*, 7, 101-3.
- 35 YAN, X., YU, Z., ZHANG, P., BATTISTI, A. J., HOLDAWAY, H. A., CHIPMAN, P. R., BAJAJ,
36 C., BERGOIN, M., ROSSMANN, M. G. & BAKER, T. S. 2009. The capsid proteins
37 of a large, icosahedral dsDNA virus. *J Mol Biol*, 385, 1287-99.
- 38 YUTIN, N. & KOONIN, E. V. 2012. Hidden evolutionary complexity of Nucleo-
39 Cytoplasmic Large DNA viruses of eukaryotes. *Virol J*, 9, 161.
- 40
41

1 **Acknowledgements**

2 We are grateful to Chan Xiao, Department of Chemistry, University of Texas at El Paso
3 (UTEP), for a kind discussion of determining T-number. This work was supported by the
4 following agencies: The Swedish Research Council (to J.H., grant number: 628-
5 20081109, 822-2010-6157, 822-2012-5260, and 828-2012-108), the Knut and Alice
6 Wallenberg Foundation (to J.H., grant number: KAW-2011.081), the European Research
7 Council (to J.H., grant number: ERC-291602), the Rontgen-Angstrom Cluster (to J.H.,
8 grant number: 349-2011-6488, and 2015-06107), the Swedish Foundation for
9 International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT) (to J.H. and K.O.,
10 grant number: JA2014-5721), The European Regional Development Fund (ELIBIO
11 CZ.02.1.01/0.0/0.0/15_003/0000447) at the European Extreme Light Infrastructure (to
12 J.H.), KAKENHI from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and
13 Technology of Japan (to N.M., grant Number: 25251009) and the Collaborative Study
14 Program of National Institute for Physiological Sciences (to K.O., grant Number: 2016-
15 No. 38), the CNRS, Aix-Marseille University and the French National Research Agency
16 (to C.A., grant number: ANR-14-CE14-0023-01).

1 **Author contributions**

2 JH, CA, KO, JMC, KM and MS conceived the experiment. CA and JMC isolated the
3 virus and provided samples. KO, HMKNR, MS performed proteomics studies. KO, NM,
4 MFH, KM and MS performed the cryo-EM studies. KO, NM, MFH, FRNCM, DSDL,
5 CA, JMC, KM and MS analysed the data. All authors read and approved the final
6 manuscript.

7

8 **Competing financial interests**

9 The authors declare no competing financial and non-financial interests.

1 **Figure legends**

2

3 Fig. 1 Proteins composing the MeIV virions. A) SDS-PAGE analysis of purified virions.
4 The arrow indicates the expected band of the conserved MCP. White asterisks indicate 10
5 abundant major proteins. B) The SEQUEST scores of the 58 identified structural proteins
6 after treatment with 2, 4 or 9 M urea buffers. The accession codes for the identified
7 proteins correspond to entries in the Table S1. Five proteins had reduced SEQUEST
8 scores under 4 and 2 M urea conditions and were considered highly urea-resistant
9 (asterisks).

10

11 Fig. 2 Images of cryo-frozen MeIV particles and single particle 3D analysis of the
12 particle. A, B) Raw and C) 2D class-averaged images of the MeIV. Black arrows in A)
13 and white dotted circle in B) indicate LDBs. White arrows in B) indicate the double-
14 layered membrane. White arrows in C) indicate periodically spaced capsomers in the
15 capsid lattice. D) Resolution plot of the single particle 3D reconstruction calculated by
16 the FSC method with a 0.5 cutoff. E) The T=309 capsid lattice of the MeIV. Surface plot
17 of the reconstructed 3D structure coloured according to the distance from the centre of
18 the virus particle (green < 1050 Å, yellow < 1070 Å, red < 1200 Å. The T-number was
19 determined by the h and k numbers of the capsid lattice (back arrows and white circles).
20 Each protrusion represents a capsomer. T=309 can be obtained by either h=7 and k=13 or
21 h=13 and k=7. F) Close-up view of the surface protrusions that are expected to be pseudo-
22 hexagonal capsomers. The capsid structure was rendered at an isodensity contour level of
23 2.0σ using a cryo-EM model at the resolution of 26.3 Å with an applied inner mask (E

1 and F). G) A cross-section of the 3D density perpendicular to a 5-fold axis. The capsid
2 and membrane structures were rendered at an isodensity contour level of 1.0σ using a
3 cryo-EM model at the resolution of 35.0 \AA without applying any inner mask.

4

5 Fig. 3 Minor capsid proteins of the MeIV particle. Close-up views from A) a 5-fold, B) a
6 3-fold and C) a 2-fold axis of the capsid. A-C) The close-up views were rendered at a
7 higher contour level than in Fig. 2E (an isodensity contour level of 2.5σ) to emphasize
8 minor features. D) A superposition of cross-sections of capsomers at the 2-fold (surface
9 in orange) and 3-fold (surface in light blue) axes. The cross-sections were generated
10 through the white dotted lines in B and C. E) Locations of the dense capsomers,
11 pentasymmetron, and trisymmetrons. The red-edged hexagons are the capsomers near the
12 2-fold axis and correspond to those in C). The black-dotted lines indicate the lines
13 between the adjacent 5-fold axes. A red triangle and pentagons indicate the 3-fold and the
14 5-fold axes.

15

16 Fig. 4. A 2D class-averaged projection of the MeIV particle by maximum likelihood-
17 based 2D classification. A) 2D class-averaged projection and B) close-up view of the 5-
18 fold vertex corresponding to the white dotted area in A). Black arrows indicate the
19 membranes (Mem) and the arrangement in the 5-fold vertex. Yellow arrows indicate the
20 possible anchoring between the membrane and capsid near 5-fold vertex.

21

22 Fig. 5 Cryo-ET 3D reconstruction of the MeIV particle, and the intensity and the position
23 of the LDB. A) One of the 3D tomographic reconstructions. The outer capsid and the

1 membrane, the LDB, and the other interior fragments are shown with white, green, and
2 blue isosurfaces, respectively. B) The relative image intensity in a cross-section of the
3 virion in A), which corresponds to the relative density of the specimen in a weak phase
4 approximation. C) A cross-section of a subtomogram-averaged model of the MeIV
5 particle. D) Spatial distribution of the LDB. The grey and white surfaces indicate the
6 capsid and membrane of the SPA model, respectively. The probability of the spatial
7 distribution (per \AA^3) of the LDB in the MeIV particle is shown in a color gradient ($3.0 -$
8 $22.0 \times 10^9/\text{\AA}^3$). C, D) The 5-fold axes are indicated with yellow lines (The closest 5-fold
9 axis of the LDB is indicated with a solid yellow line). E) Distribution of the radial
10 distance of the LDB from the closest 5-fold vertex and the membrane (Green histogram).
11 The purple curve shows the probability of finding the LDB, assuming a uniform
12 distribution in the MeIV particle.

13

14 Fig. 6 Trisymmetron and pentasymmetron organization of CIV (EMDB Accession code:
15 1580), PBCV-1 (EMDB Accession code: 5378) and MeIV particles. The number of
16 capsomers on each edge are shown in the figure. Yellow triangles indicate 3-fold axes
17 and a red pentagon a 5-fold axis. Three white circles in every hexagonal capsomers (the
18 bottom expansion plains) indicate the trimeric MCPs that compose the capsomer.

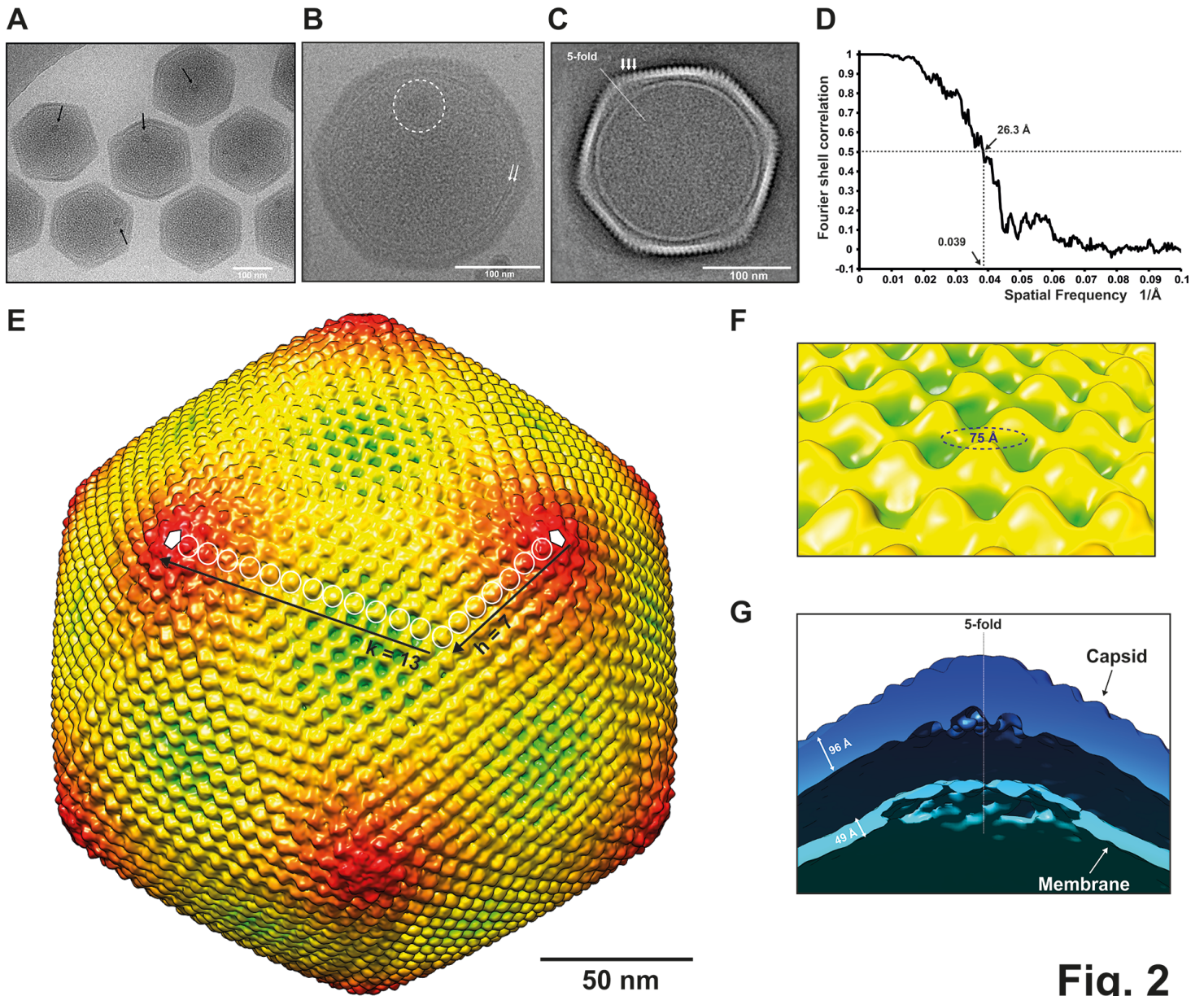


Fig. 2

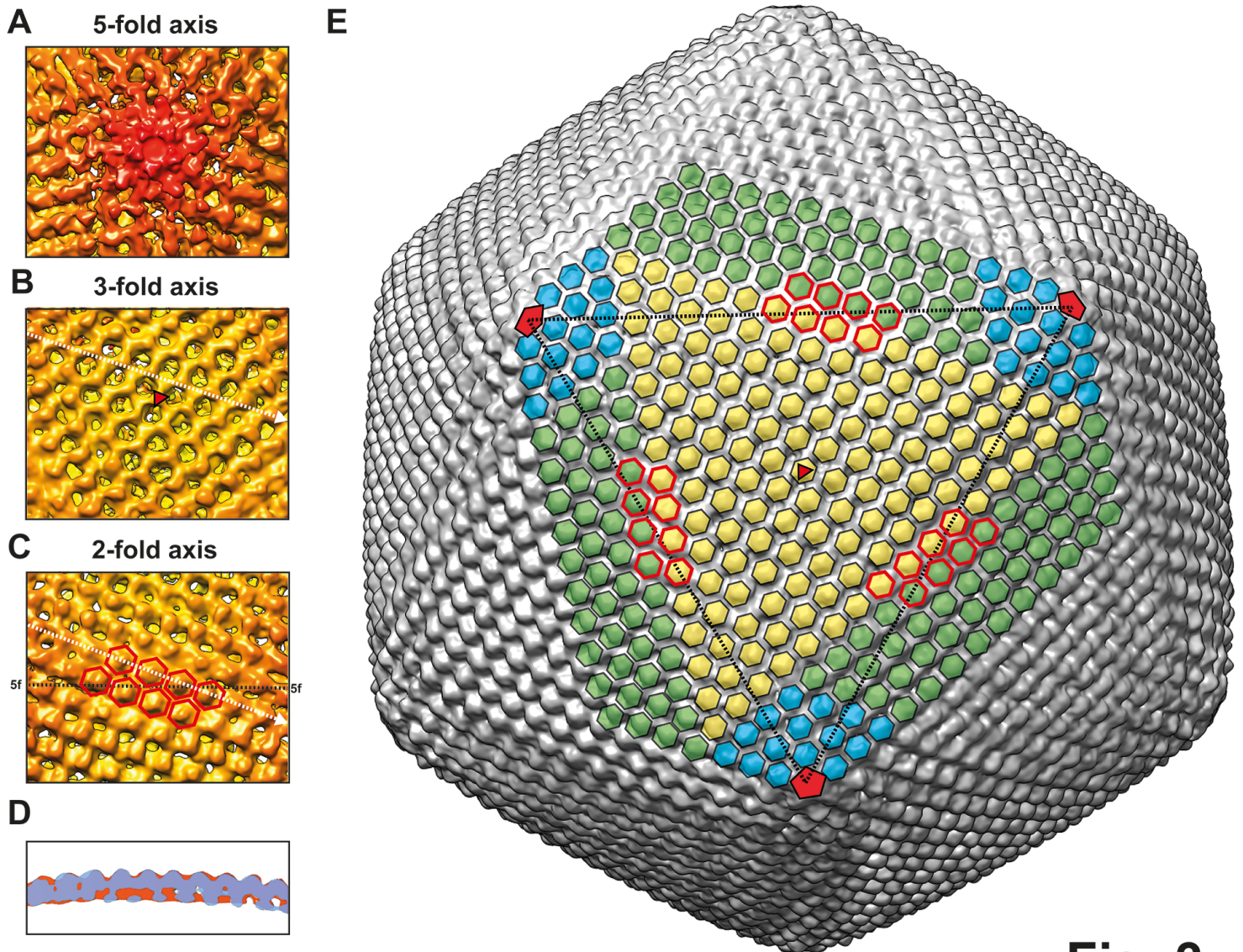


Fig. 3

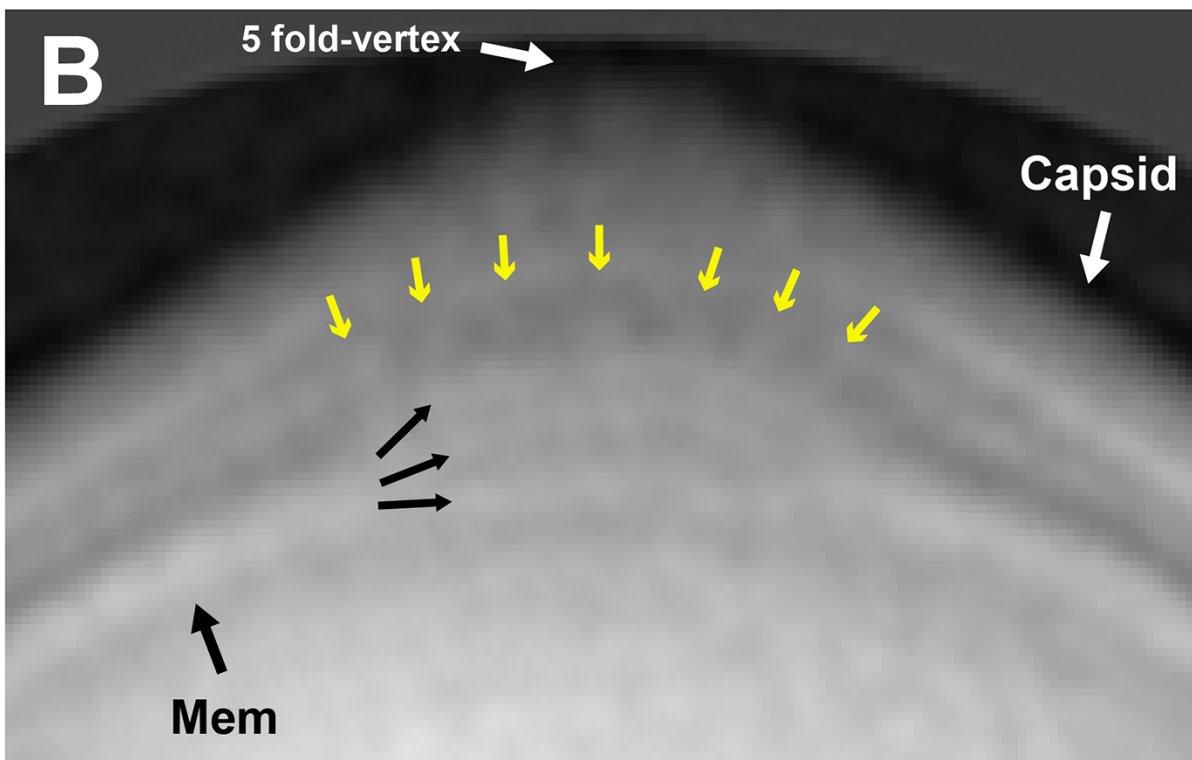
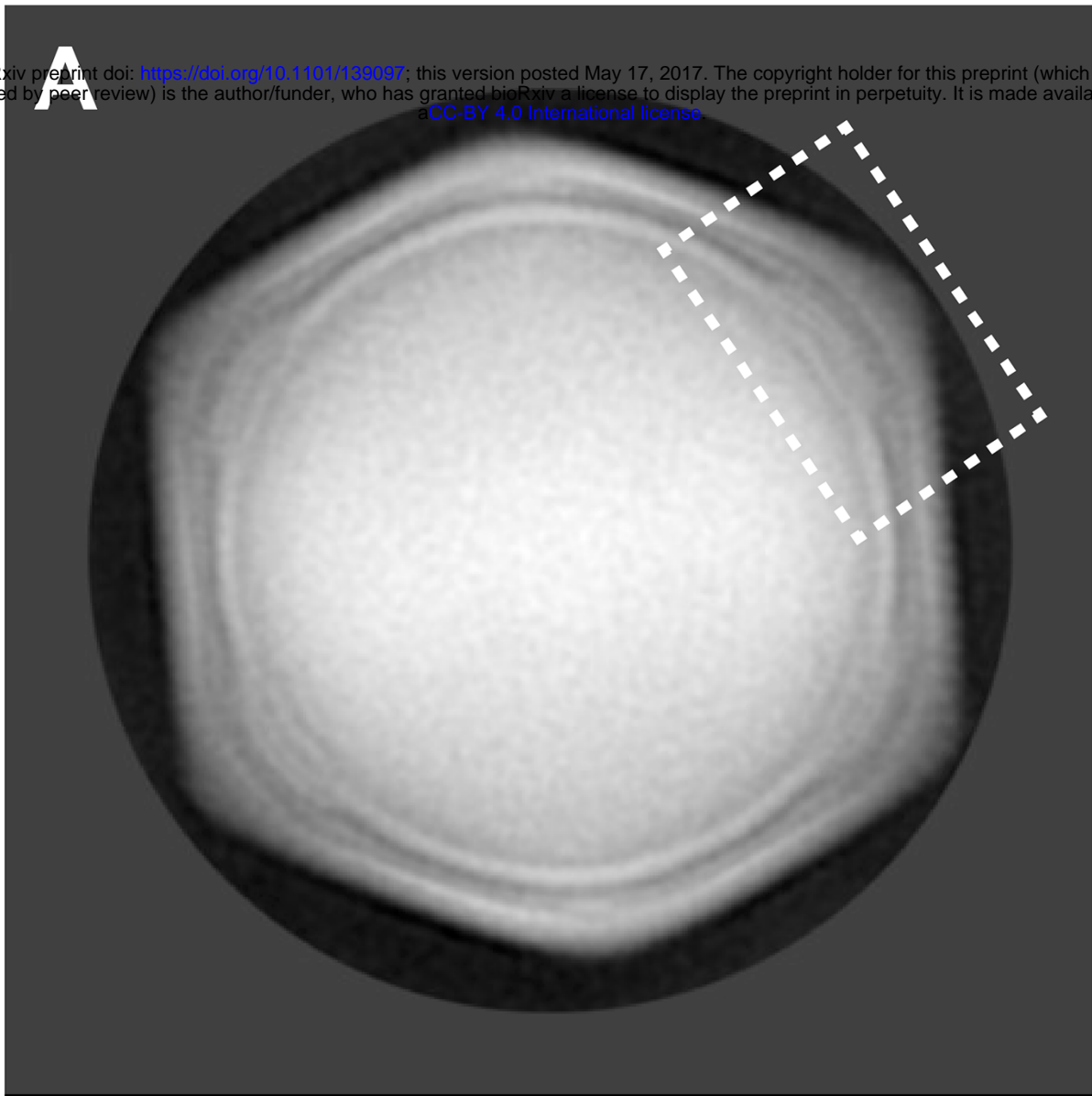


Fig. 4

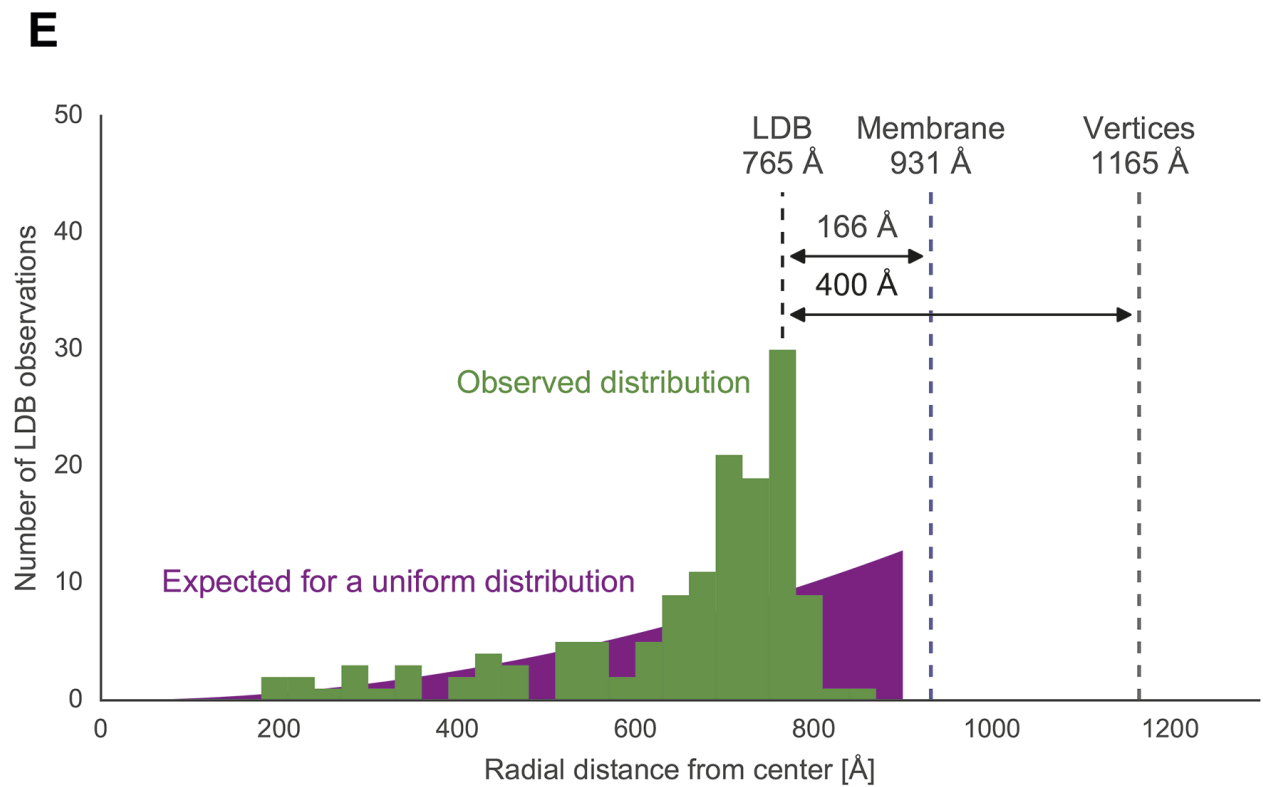
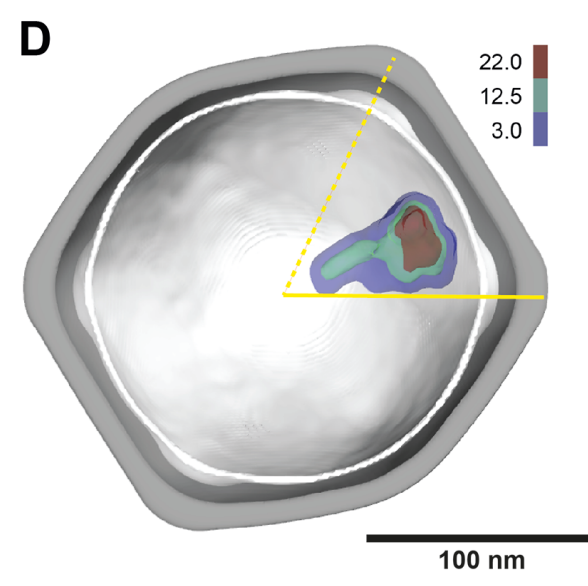
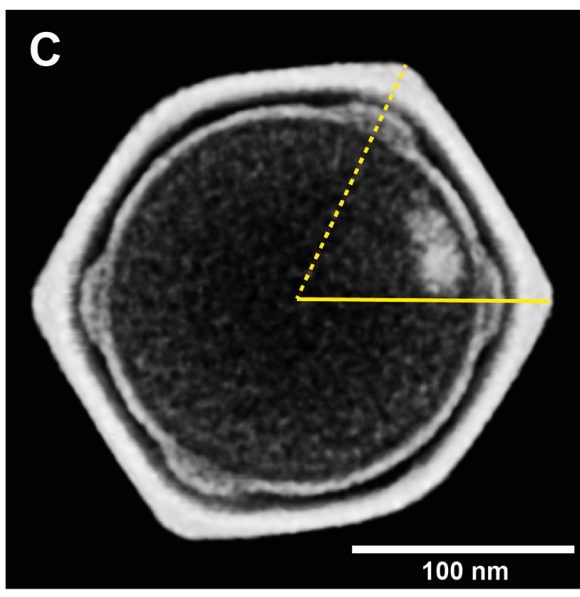
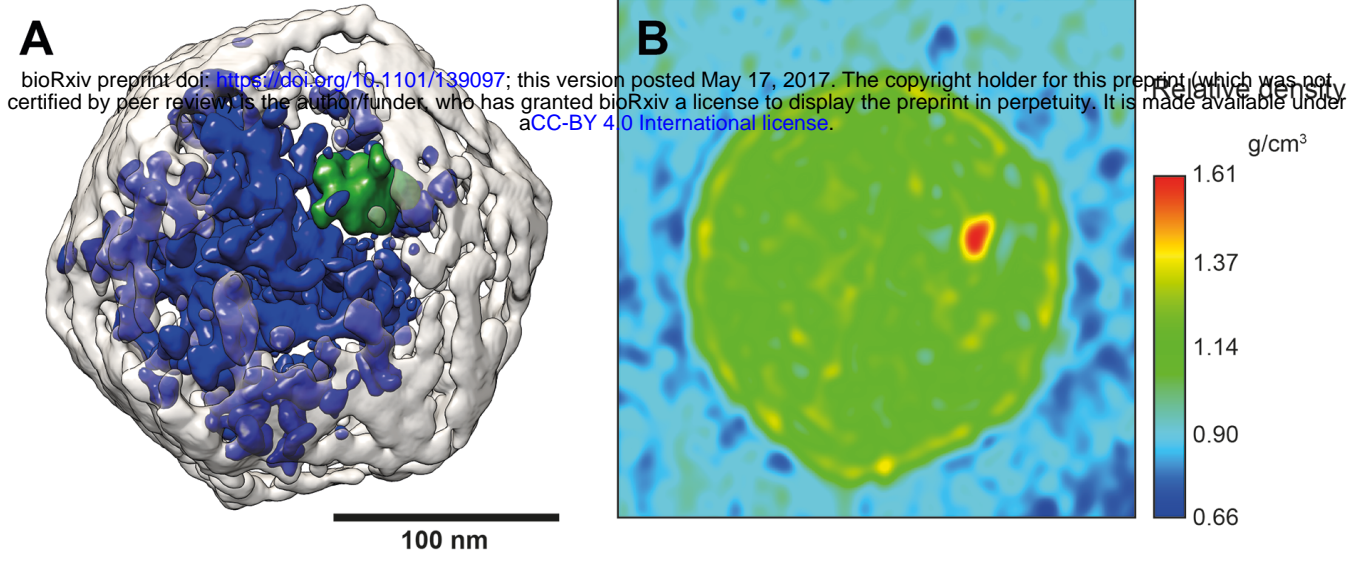
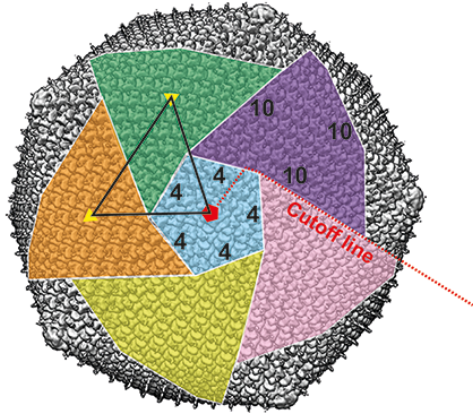
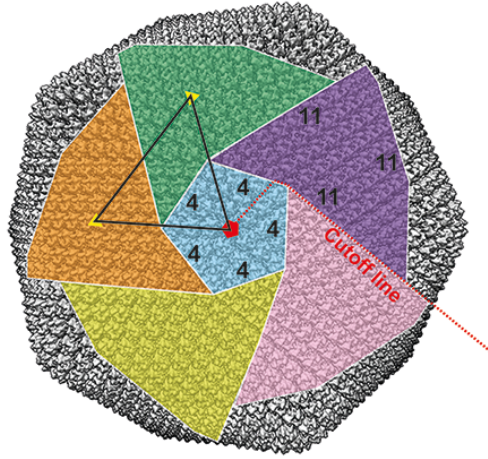


Fig. 5

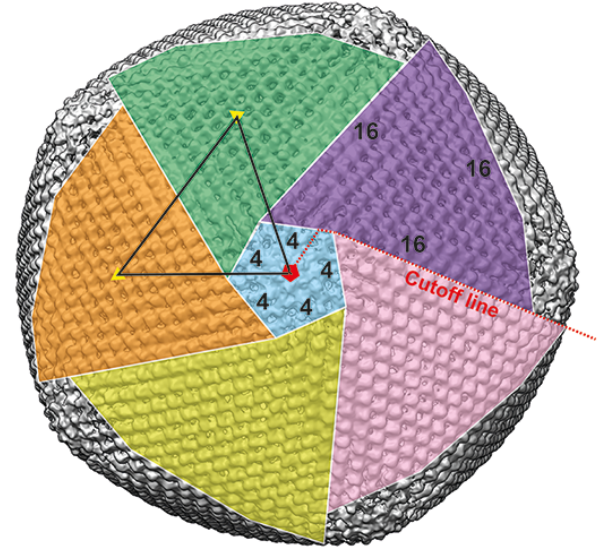
CIV
T=147



PBCV-1
T=169



Melbournevirus
T=309



100 nm

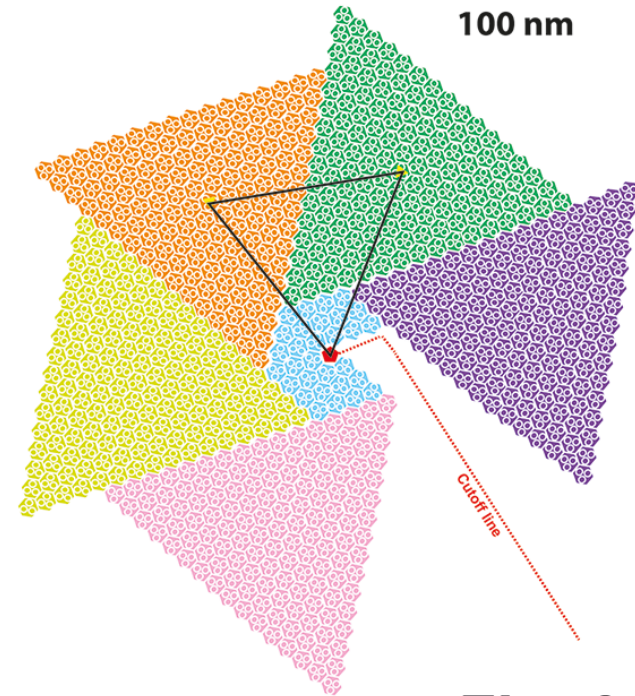
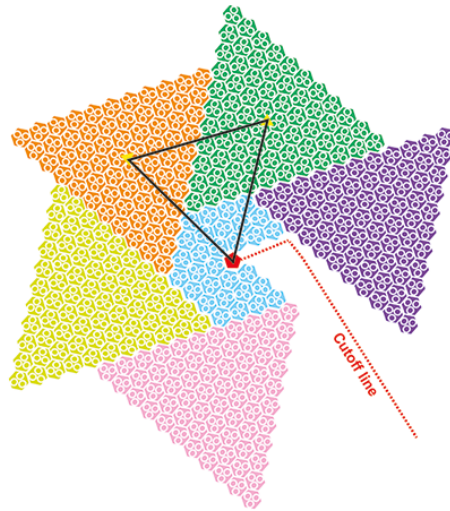
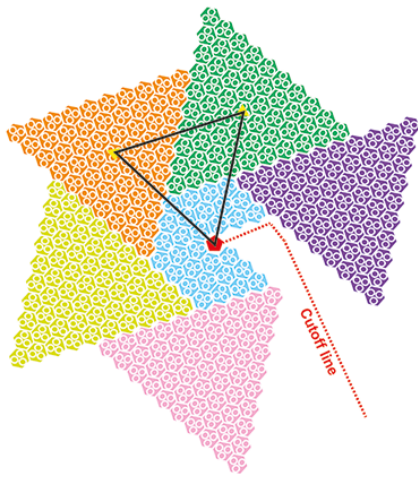


Fig. 6

	CIV	PBCV-1	PpV01	Faustovirus	MeIV
Size					
Diameter nm	185	190	220	240	232
T number					
(h, k)	(7,7)	(7,8)	(7,10)	(7, 12)	(7, 13)
T ^{*1}	147	169	219	277	309
Hexagonal capsomers					
<i>Trisymmetrons</i>					
Capsomers on each edge (t) ^{*2}	10	11	13	15	16
The number of capsomers (N _t) ^{*3}	55	66	91	120	136
<i>Pentasympmetrons</i>					
Capsomers on each edge (p) ^{*4}	4	4	4	4	4
The number of capsomers (N _p) ^{*5}	30	30	30	30	30
Total number of capsomers	1460	1680	2160	2660	3080
Pentagonal capsomers					
Total number of capsomers	12	12	12	12	12

^{*1} $T = Pf^2 = (h^2 + h*k + k^2)f^2$ ^{*2} $t = (h + 2k - 1)/2$ ^{*3} $N_t = [(h + 2k)^2 - 1]/8$ ^{*4} $p = (h + 1)/2$ ^{*5} $N_p = [5(h^2 - 1)]/8$

Table 1 Pentasympmetron and trisymmetron organization in five giant viruses